



Good morning/afternoon,

My name is Anita Agrawal and I'm the Vice-Chair for the Federation of Metro Tenants Associations.

The FMTA is a non-profit Organization which advocates for better rights for Tenants. Founded in 1974, we are the oldest and largest Tenant Federation in Canada. The FMTA is comprised of affiliated Tenant Associations and of individual members.

The FMTA hears first hand from tenants on over 30,000 thousand occasions a year, through our Tenant Hotline, our Outreach program and Education project.

As such I'm here today to pass on several concerns we have regarding some of the cuts or service changes proposed by the KPMG consultation reports.

In particular, we've heard from tenants and they have strong concerns about reducing or eliminating all of the Affordable Housing programs and Community partnership grants.

Currently, as I'm sure you all know, the social housing wait list is over 70,000 people long and requires a wait of 10 years. There is a strong need for more affordable housing and axing the office which provides this does not make sense.

Eliminating the New Affordable Housing Development service would eliminate that exact same efficient housing options council is currently trying to develop through private and non-profit groups.

In the same vein, eliminating the Housing Improvement Loans program reduces the ability to access federal dollars to improve living conditions.

Community partnership grants also add a number of solid programs to the City's housing services. These include neighbourhood development dollars, homelessness initiatives, and cultural grants. Again, eliminating these adds further strain to deteriorating housing services that are greatly needed.

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In addition to these issues, tenants have concerns with some of the other proposals outlined.

First of all, ask any tenant in the outer regions of this City about the service levels they receive from the City and I think you will find that they consider themselves to be under serviced.

Second of all, a number of the cuts proposed will make a lower quality city and will further limit the community services available to tenants outside of the downtown core.

Two reports – the *3 Cities* report and *Vertical Poverty* report – have both highlighted income and service levels as being lower in Etobicoke, Scarborough and North York for tenants.

Eliminating theatre programs, AIDS and drug prevention, nutrition programs, libraries, and TTC routes will further reduce the quality of life for those who need these services the most.

At this time, we encourage the mayor and the executive community to hear the voices of tenants and we hope that that any decision by the committee to cut services will be made with the clearest information on a cut's impact.

Thank you.

On behalf of the FMTA,

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